

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board Working Group

DATE: 31st May 2022

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WARD(S): All

FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

STRONG, HEALTHY AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

To update the Wellbeing Board on the progress of delivering Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (SHAN) and the new work around Poverty Support in Slough.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the progress made on the Poverty Support agenda under Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods initiative.

3. **Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

3.1 Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods is a key priority of the Slough Wellbeing Board.

3.2. **Corporate Plan Outcomes**

The work to nurture and support strong, healthy, and attractive neighbourhoods helps deliver the following outcome in the Corporate Plan (2022 – 2025):

An environment that helps residents live more independent, healthier, and safer lives.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is supporting the delivery of SHAN by the awarding of a £90,000 grant to Slough Borough Council in 2022/23. This has led to a re-alignment of outcomes to closely work with Primary Care Networks to reduce health inequality in Slough. Work to alleviate poverty is part of the new SHAN/CCG programme.

(b) Risk Management

Risks associated with the delivery of the Strong, Healthy and Attractive (SHA) initiative will initially be monitored by relevant operation and strategic groups as well as being reported to the Slough Wellbeing Board.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no direct legal or Human Rights Act Implications

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report. EIAs will be completed for specific aspects of the programme as required. A key principle of the model is to address inequalities.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The SHAN initiative collaborates with, and supports individuals, community groups and other stakeholders (including businesses, ward members and other public sector organisations) to deliver transformational projects in communities and neighbourhoods.

5.2 Primary Care Network pilot: The 12-month pilot partnership between Slough's Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the council's Community Development Team began on 1 April 2022. The pilot partnership recognises the shared outcomes around reducing health inequality between the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Slough Borough Council. The CCG provides health care to reduce health inequality while Community Development leads on delivering outputs to tackle the wider determinants of health inequality.

5.2.1 A work programme has now been jointly agreed between both parties and Community Development will deliver projects and work streams that build on the firm foundations the team have with our communities to address the wider health determinants like, poverty, physical inactivity, loneliness and lifestyle choices which lead to poor health.

5.2.2 An initial work stream to develop a Community Directory has begun. Following research and feedback from stakeholders including Social Prescribers linked to PCNs, Community Development officers are working with #OneSlough to develop this on-line resource. Partner organisations and individual officers currently have only partial knowledge and understanding of the depth and spread of support available in the borough and the wider East Berkshire and Thames Valley region. It has been agreed to develop a new website to meet the needs of residents, community groups, GPs, Social Prescribers, and other agencies who need to refer to community-based support.

5.2.3 Physical and social event and other forms of local support will be listed in one place and will include links to wider networks across the borough and region. This directory will meet the outcomes of promoting self-help, community resilience and prevention and allow activities (social and physical) and support to be mapped out in one place with links to other support and networks in Slough.

5.3 SHAN update: Over the last 6 months the SHAN workstream has delivered the following projects in specific wards:

- Britwell – The Community Development officer led a health focussed public engagement process to gather information about how the community felt about the new health centre at Britwell Hub. A delivery plan has been drafted with community leaders and local groups are being supported to host a Jubilee event as a catalyst to start working on the rest of the delivery of the plan.
- Baylis and Stoke – A SHAN engagement process was completed, and an action plan was created with local people and groups. Local groups in the ward have agreed to adopt the plan and work with residents to deliver the agreed outcomes.

Future to be developed this year include:

- Wexham Lea (SPINE/CSN)
- Central (CSN/LOCC)
- Cippenham Green and Meadow (SHAPE/SPINE/LOCC)
- Foxborough/Kedermister (LOCC)

5.4 Cost of living crises in Slough: Across the UK the impact of historically high inflation rates is being felt by everyone. High fuel and food costs linked to low wages in some sectors are contributing to a national cost of living crises. Locally Slough Foodbank are reporting a significant rise in referrals to this service. #OneSlough are co-ordinating a number of initiatives across the voluntary and community sector to try to alleviate the impact in Slough; Community Development are supporting this important work.

5.4.1 Poverty Action Group: Through the work to develop a new Community Directory, it was clear that there was an urgent need to prioritise a way to share understanding of the existing and emerging projects to help residents cope with cost of living. Community Development will support #OneSlough to create an alliance of partners to come together in June to share their data and understanding of the problem and the emerging response. This will also be an opportunity to identify gaps in service provision so community and voluntary sector can respond to ensure there are no hidden pockets of people in Slough not receiving support around food and/or fuel and can access financial advice.

5.4.2 Food support: Community Development have audited food-assistance provision in Slough and identified organisations, community groups and charities which are providing food-assistance to local residents. The council's Community

Development team are focussing on developing and supporting two food-assistance projects in Slough; a new Community Pantry continuing support for Meals from Marlow.

- A Community Pantry is being planned to open in June 2022. Using existing links with local supermarkets, food shops, cafes and restaurants the project is looking to be able to run a membership-based scheme where members pay a small weekly fee (around £3.50 per week) which will allow them to come to the Pantry and choose up to 10 food items. Further details can be found here [Your Local Pantry](#)
- Meals from Marlow is a scheme used by Community Development during Covid-19 lockdowns. Hot meals are provided to community groups who can then distribute them through their own micro-networks. This model uses the strength of the community groups who are trusted by residents and allow them to build resilience in a time of need.

5.4.3 Fuel and energy support: This work is in its early stages. Community Development officers are ensuring that GPs and Social Prescribers are aware of the support available via third parties to help residents deal with high fuel and utility costs. A number of training webinars by Groundworks' Green Doctor service ([Green Doctor, helping UK residents stay warm, stay well, and save money on household bills - Groundwork](#)) have been organised.

6. Comments of Other Committees

This report has not been shared with other committees.

7. Conclusion

Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhood initiatives continue to be delivered across the borough and from April 2022 the focus will continue around tackling wider health inequalities as well as supporting the work to co-ordinate community support for those struggling with huge rises in fuel and food prices including the cost of living.